

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IGA-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CU-02 HEW-04 FEA-01
DHA-02 IO-13 /081 W
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
SECSTATE WASHDC 3424
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 3182

YAOUNDE FOR MALABO

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, EEC, EK
SUBJECT: EC AID DEVELOPMENT IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA

REF: 76 EC BRUSSELS A-501

1. EC COMMISSION STAFF OFFICIALS INFORM US THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE BY THE PRESIDENT OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA MACIAS NGUEMA TOWARDS EC AID ACTIVITIES. THE EC COMMISSION DELEGATE, ANTONIO LESINA, WHO IS BASED IN YAOUNDE HAS RECENTLY HAD TWO EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT. PREVIOUSLY THE GOVERNMENT HAD BALKED AT EC EFFORTS TO DRAW UP A SOUND INDICATIVE AID PROGRAM. AS A RESULT, THE EC HAD DECIDED TO CUT BACK ITS AID UNDER THE LOME CONVENTION TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA TO ABOUT 4 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT (MUA, ABOUT \$4.5 MILLION).

2. EQUATORIAL GUINEA GOVERNMENT HAS NOW PROPOSED SEVERAL AID PROJECTS, TWO OF WHICH THE EC IS CONSIDERING TO ADOPT AS THE
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MAIN PARTS OF ITS AID PROGRAM. ONE PROJECT WOULD REHABILITATE AND CONSTRUCT STORAGE FACILITIES FOR REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. THE OTHER WOULD HELP REHABILITATE COCOA PLANTATIONS. THERE WOULD ALSO BE A SMALL AMOUNT OF AID FOR EDUCATIONAL GRANTS.

3. COMMISSION OFFICIALS ADD THAT THEY HAVE RESERVATIONS REGARDING EQUATORIAL GUINEA'S ABILITY TO MEET ACCEPTABLE

PROJECT STANDARDS, PARTICULARLY ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS. NEVERTHELESS, COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON IS ANXIOUS TO PUT EC RELATIONS WITH EQUATORIAL GUINEA ON A SOUND FOOTING. AS A RESULT, HE HAS SUGGESTED REVISING UPWARD THE EC AID TO 7 MUA. COMMISSION STAFF OFFICIALS HOPE THAT THE EC WILL BE ABLE TO SIGN AN INDICATIVE AID PROGRAM WITH EQUATORIAL GUINEA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. COMMENT: THE COMMISSION FOLLOWS THE POLICY OF NOT INTERVENING IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF THE ACP COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES OF THE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. COMMISSION STAFF OFFICIALS CONCEDE, HOWEVER, THAT OF THE 52 ACP COUNTRIES, EQUATORIAL GUINEA IS PROBABLY THE WORST OFFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS. END COMMENT. HINTON

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